

Youth Ministry Newsletter

A Publication of Catholic Youth and School Services
Diocese of Toledo

September 2002

Visit our Website WWW.cyss.org

Area Dates

September 8: Life Fest, Shrine Park, Carey, 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.

September 16: Heartland "All Who Work With Youth" support group meeting, Norwalk, St. Paul Rectory, 7:00 p.m.

September 24: Heartland XVI High School Gathering Directors Meeting, Ss. Peter and Paul Gathering Space, 7:00 p.m.

Diocesan Dates

2002

September	8 :Life Fest
October	6: Kaleidoscope/Prism HS 13:Crossroads HS 18:Prism JH 20:Beacon JH 27:Two Rivers HS
November	3:Hearthstone HS 10:Heartland HS
December	30:Winter Fun Day

2003

January	19:Back to Earth HS 26:Hearthstone JH
February	8:Crossroads JH 16:Beacon HS 28:Kaleidoscope HS
March	2:Two Rivers JH 16:BTE/Heartland HS
April	18:Walk for Life\
June	10:Cedar Point Day
July	11-13:Youth Conference

Dear Heartland Friend,

It is time for school again! I hope you enjoyed the summer and had time to relax and spend time with family and friends! There are many events for the Heartland Youth to participate in this year. I hope together we can encourage them to attend!

September 8 – Sunday - Life Fest will be held at Carey Shrine Park from 1:00 – 8:00 p.m. with Mass being celebrated at 6:30 p.m. Come and see the band – "Ceili Rain" along with local talent who will be performing on stage throughout the day. There will be lots of games, crafts, food, and music for a day of fun for the whole family!

September 16 – Monday - Heartland "ALL WHO WORK WITH YOUTH" Support Group Meeting – We will be meeting @ Norwalk St. Paul in the Rectory at 7:00 p.m. Come and share ideas what you are doing with your youth and give us ideas in which we can help you in your youth ministry programs.

September 24– Tuesday – Heartland XVI High School Gathering Director's Meeting. This will be our second meeting and we will meet again at the Ss. Peter and Paul Gathering Space on Columbus Ave. in Sandusky at 7:00 p.m. Working with the theme "Footsteps of the Lord" and we are excited to have "Shoebox 6" in concert for the gathering! You need to put the date **November 10, 2002** on your calendar – Sandusky Central Catholic High School – 12:00 – 8:00 p.m. – A day of games, workshops, food, prayer, music and friends – Closing Liturgy will be held at Ss. Peter & Paul Church at 6:30 p.m. Start getting your youth excited to attend the **Heartland XVI High School Gathering!**

TEC – "Teens Encounter Christ" – Now is the time for you to start encouraging your Juniors, Seniors and Incoming College Freshman to sign up for a TEC Weekend!

TEC Dates:

318	Nov. 9 –11, 2002 – Guys
319	Nov. 30 – Dec. 2, 2002 – Girls
320	Jan. 25 – 27, 2003 – Guys
321	Feb. 1 – 3, 2003 – Girls
322	Feb. 22 – 24, 2003 – Guys
323	March 8 – 10, 2003 – Girls

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In many ways, these first two months of ministry in the Office of Vocations has been an experience of “holy ground.” I often find myself following in the footsteps of Moses, whose experience of checking out the burning bush led to a mission he’d never dreamed of.

Vocation ministry has always been somewhat of a mystery to me. Just what does one do in such a position? Do you wait for people to call and say they want to be a priest or sister or brother? Do you go out and plant the seed of the idea of a Church-related ministry? Do you provide information for parents, grandparents and friends who may be called on to support another called to such a way of life? Do you encourage those already in formation for priesthood and religious life? Do you raise awareness of God’s continued call and our responsibility to respond as Church? Do you pray for openness for those whom God is calling to priesthood and religious life that they might respond generously? I’m learning that my role as Associate Director of Vocations involves all of this and more!

My ministry during these first months has taken

me to the “holy ground” of The Pines Retreat Center in Fremont where our diocesan seminarians came together in July for their summer gathering. I was indeed privileged to be present as these men were renewed in their desire to respond to God’s call. Their eagerness to learn more about the life of a priest and to pray for the grace to discern God’s call was a great witness to me. Meeting their parents on the final day of the gathering was also a blessing, parents who continue to walk with their sons on this portion of their journey. Spending time with these fifteen men in seminary formation gave me much hope for the future of the Church in our diocese.

I also tread on “holy ground” as I traveled to Port Clinton to participate in a retreat morning for the staff of Immaculate Conception School. We spent time considering our own call as educators and our role in helping students to hear and respond to God’s call. Planning some vocation activities for the coming year sparked a bit of burning bush in each of us.

I’ve had the joy of sharing “holy ground” also with the Serrans of the Tiffin deanery, the vocation directors of

some of the religious communities of the diocese, members of the Admissions/Formation Team that deal with seminarian issues, and members of Youth and Young Adult Ministry as we planned Life Fest for September 8.

A special “holy ground” experience happens each Friday morning before Mass as Fr. Dave Nuss and I spend time in prayer asking that God keep us faithful and vibrant witnesses and that those whom He is calling will have the grace to respond generously.

While there are times that, like Moses, I question God’s choice of messenger or my own abilities to act in his name, I am reminded of God’s promise to him that he would remain with him always. My greatest joy lies in knowing that I am gifted with a ministry where my first responsibility is to witness God’s action in my life and his incredible faithful love. And so, when I hear the call each morning to share the good news of the Love of my Life, I do my best to respond as Moses did, “Here I am.”

Sr. Marilyn is the Associate Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Toledo

Called to Witness: Rwanda 2003

Catholic Relief Services, in conjunction with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, is sponsoring a Called to Witness trip to Rwanda in March of 2003.

This trip will teach you more about Catholic Relief Services and their field programs, as well as help you to begin to build solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas. This program will also provide you with resources to raise awareness about global justice within your ministry.

This program holds a special place in my heart. Last year, I was able to participate in the Called to Witness Program. It was a life changing experience. To experience the culture and traditions in another country...a country filled with poverty and tragedy...was amazing.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2003 Called to Witness trip. I highly encourage anyone interested to apply for this wonderful opportunity. For more information, or to get a copy of the application form, contact me at dverhoff@toledodiocese.org, or call Youth & Young Adult Ministry, ext. 606.

Youth Minister Wanted

A Part-time Youth Minister is needed for Holy Family Parish in North Baltimore. Hours are flexible and negotiable. Call Sr. Betty at 419-257-2319 for more information.

Policy for Screening Volunteers Who Work With Youth

When working with youth, one of the first priorities that we have is to ensure the safety of those youth. When planning an event, driving a car for an event, or personally ministering to youth, safety precautions should always be taken.

The local parishes and schools have the responsibility to screen their volunteers to ensure that their ministries and activities are truly safe places for youth. In order to complete this overwhelming, yet necessary task, the Diocese has implemented a policy for screening volunteers who work with youth.

A copy of this policy is enclosed with this newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Youth & Young Adult Ministry ext. 606.



Living the Vision Updates on the Web

"Living the Vision" is a resource manual that was compiled to assist Youth Ministers throughout the Diocese. The book consists of "hands on" programs and activities that can be used with youth in your programs.

Youth & Young Adult Ministry is currently looking for updates to this manual. When we receive these, we will post them on the web on the Youth Ministry homepage. This way, new and exciting ideas will only be a click away!

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Two Rivers;

TEC Dates (Continued)

- 324 March 15 – 17, 2003 – Guys
- 325 April 5 – 7, 2003 – Girls
- End of Year Celebration – April 27, 2003
- 326 Nov. 8 – 10, 2003 – Guys
- 327 Nov. 29 – Dec. 1, 2003 – Girls

Thanks for all you do to include youth in your ministry. May we all grow together in Christ as we “Walk in His Footsteps” and encounter many new things along the way. If you have any questions/challenges in your youth ministry program please contact the CYSS office or myself and I am sure someone will be able to help you along your way. Working together in His name – we can accomplish great things!

All in His Name,

Patti Tackett
Heartland Area Coordinator



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Mail to CYSS, Attn: Vicki Fitts or
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